

Submitter: Steven Trotter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose House Bill 3103 and its amendments. This bill is driven by timber industry interests and would undermine the Western Oregon state forest habitat conservation plan, leading to more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and reduced carbon storage. It also puts critical drinking water sources at risk.

We are at a pivotal moment for our forests. Greed and corruption are running unchecked at the federal level, with efforts to erase any acknowledgment of climate change—and the vital role our forests play in fighting it. Oregon's mature forests store some of the highest levels of carbon in the world. The idea that logging them reduces fire danger is a dangerous myth. In reality, mature forests are our best defense against wildfires, unlike the plantation forests the timber industry wants to replace them with.

This bill also disregards the perspectives and traditional knowledge of Native American communities, who have a much stronger history of responsible forest stewardship than the timber industry.

I urge you to reject this bill. Instead, this committee should focus on policies that enhance carbon storage in our state forests and protect public resources for generations to come.

Please do not let this bill advance.

Sincerely,
Steven Trotter